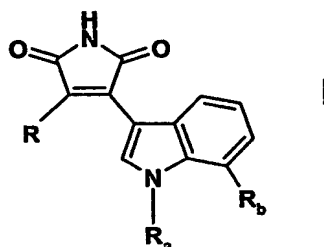


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**CLAIMS**

1. A compound of formula I

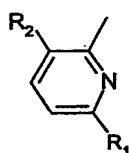


wherein

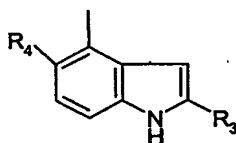
$R_a$  is H;  $C_{1-4}$ alkyl; or  $C_{1-4}$ alkyl substituted by OH,  $NH_2$ ,  $NHC_{1-4}$ alkyl or  $N(di-C_{1-4}alkyl)_2$ ;

$R_b$  is H; halogen;  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl; or  $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy, and

R is a radical of formula (a) or (b)



(a)



(b)

wherein

each of  $R_1$  and  $R_3$  is a heterocyclic residue; or a radical of formula  $\alpha$



wherein X is a direct bond, O, S or  $NR_{11}$  wherein  $R_{11}$  is H or  $C_{1-4}$ alkyl,

$R_c$  is  $C_{1-4}$ alkylene or  $C_{1-4}$ alkylene wherein one  $CH_2$  is replaced by  $CR_xR_y$  wherein one of  $R_x$  and  $R_y$  is H and the other is  $CH_3$ , each of  $R_x$  and  $R_y$  is  $CH_3$  or  $R_x$  and  $R_y$  form together  $-CH_2-CH_2-$ ,

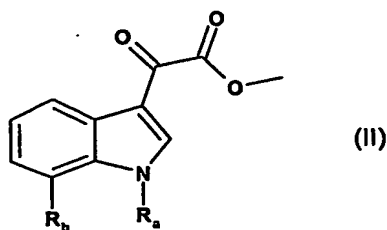
Y is bound to the terminal carbon atom and is selected from OH,  $-NR_{12}R_{13}$  wherein each of  $R_{12}$  and  $R_{13}$ , independently, is H,  $C_{3-6}$ cycloalkyl,  $C_{3-6}$ cycloalkyl- $C_{1-4}$ alkyl, aryl, aryl- $C_{1-4}$ alkyl, heteroaryl- $C_{1-4}$ alkyl,  $C_{2-6}$ alkenyl or  $C_{1-4}$ alkyl optionally substituted on the terminal carbon atom by OH, halogen,  $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy or  $-NR_{14}R_{15}$  wherein each of  $R_{14}$  and  $R_{15}$ , independently, is H,  $C_{1-4}$ alkyl,  $C_{3-6}$ cycloalkyl,  $C_{3-6}$ cycloalkyl- $C_{1-4}$ alkyl, aryl- $C_{1-4}$ alkyl, or  $R_{12}$  and  $R_{13}$  form together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound a heterocyclic residue; and

each of  $R_2$  and  $R_4$ , independently, is H; halogen;  $C_{1-4}$ alkyl;  $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy;  $CF_3$ ; nitrile; nitro or amino,

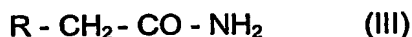
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or a salt thereof.

2. A compound according to claim 1 wherein  $R_a$  is H, methyl, ethyl, or isopropyl, or a salt thereof.
3. A compound according to claim 1 or 2 wherein  $R_b$  is H, Cl, methyl or ethyl, or a salt thereof.
4. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein  $R_1$  is a heterocyclic residue, e.g. a piperazinyl, optionally substituted on a ring nitrogen or on a ring carbon, e.g. 4-methyl-piperazin-1-yl, or 4,7-diaza-spiro[2.5]oct-7-yl; or a radical of formula ( $\alpha$ ) wherein X is a direct bond,  $R_c$  is  $CH_2$  and Y is  $-NR_{12}R_{13}$  wherein each of  $R_{12}$  and  $R_{13}$ , independently, is H,  $C_{3-6}$ cycloalkyl- $C_{1-4}$ alkyl,  $C_{2-6}$ alkenyl or  $C_{1-4}$ alkyl optionally substituted on the terminal carbon atom by OH, halogen,  $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy or  $-NR_{14}R_{15}$  wherein each of  $R_{14}$  and  $R_{15}$ , independently, is H or  $C_{1-4}$ alkyl; or  $R_{12}$  and  $R_{13}$  form together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound a heterocyclic residue e.g. a piperazinyl, or a salt thereof.
5. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein  $R_2$  and/or  $R_4$  is H; Cl, F;  $CF_3$ ; nitrile; nitro or amino, or a salt thereof.
6. A process for the preparation of a compound of formula I according to claim 1, which process comprises reacting a compound of formula II



wherein  $R_a$  and  $R_b$  are as defined in claim 1,  
with a compound of formula III



wherein R is as defined in claim 1,  
and, where required, converting the resulting compound of formula I obtained in free form to a salt form or vice versa, as appropriate.

7. A compound of formula I according to any one of claims 1 to 5, in free form or in a pharmaceutically acceptable salt form for use as a pharmaceutical.

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8. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula I according to any one of claims 1 to 5, in free form or in a pharmaceutically acceptable salt form, in association with a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or carrier therefor.
9. A compound of formula I according to any one of claims 1 to 5 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof for use in the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition for use in the treatment or prevention of disorders or diseases mediated by T lymphocytes and/or PKC or GSK-3 $\beta$ .
10. A method for preventing or treating disorders or diseases mediated by T lymphocytes and/or PKC or GSK-3 $\beta$  in a subject in need of such treatment, which method comprises administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound of formula I according to any one of claims 1 to 5 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.